



Viral Hepatitis Newsletter

July 2023

Spotlight



World Hepatitis Day – 28 July

World Hepatitis Day

July 28

World Hepatitis Day is recognized annually on July 28. World Hepatitis Day is also the birthdate of Dr. Baruch Blumberg who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1976 for his discovery of hepatitis B and his development of the first hepatitis B vaccine only two years later.

This year's World Hepatitis Day campaign theme is "We're Not Waiting," to re-ignite the urgency for hepatitis elimination, and to bring countries together to celebrate the work that has been done. There is still work to be done to address injustices and inequities regarding hepatitis awareness and treatment. The "We're Not Waiting" campaign is a renewed focus on the viral hepatitis elimination goal of 2030.

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Treatment as Prevention

Hepatitis B Treatment

Hepatitis B is a contagious liver disease that ranges in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks, to a lifelong illness. Hepatitis B results from an infection with the hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis B infected individuals who are unable to clear hepatitis B on their own should seek out advice from a medical practitioner, antiviral medications can sometimes be recommended to help fight the virus and slow the damage to the liver. [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

90%

Of people with hepatitis C can be cured in 8-12 weeks

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hepatitis C Treatment

Hepatitis C is a contagious liver disease that ranges in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness that attacks the liver. Hepatitis C results from an infection with the hepatitis C virus; 75-85% of people exposed to hepatitis C will develop a chronic infection. Hepatitis C is cured with highly effective direct-acting antiviral medications, with 90% of people being cured in 8-12 weeks.

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Too Few People Treated for Hepatitis C

A new report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that only 1 in every 3 American adults are cured from hepatitis C despite highly effective treatments and cure rates. Many Americans continue to leave their hepatitis C untreated, which can lead to liver cancer and liver failure.

ADULTS DIAGNOSED AND CURED* OF HEPATITIS C IN THE U.S., 2013-2022



*Cured is defined as viral clearance, which is an undetectable hepatitis C virus (hepatitis C virus RNA) after a prior test result of detectable HCV RNA.
**Refers to an Other (flat or self-pay) in the analysis.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Emmanuel Thomas, MD, PHD, board chair of the American Liver Foundation states "It is imperative that we educate Americans about the dangers of untreated hepatitis C, who is at risk, and that a cure is available."

Increased access to diagnosis, treatment, and prevention services will help us make progress towards the hepatitis C elimination goals of 2030.

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Hepatitis C Case Investigations and Referrals to the Connect to Cure Program

The Connect to Cure Program was launched earlier this year to support care coordination for those living with hepatitis C seeking curative treatment at 19 regional sites across the state. Individuals can visit one of the locations or utilize telehealth services to get prevention and care services, including case management, testing, assistance with insurance enrollment, and linkage to care.

When conducting hepatitis C investigations patients in need of linkage to care and curative treatment can be referred to the Connect to Cure Program. Please note that the Connect to Cure Program care coordinators do not serve as investigators in any capacity, and all referrals should be made following the conclusion of your investigation. To make a referral please visit the Connect to Cure website (<https://www.connecttocure.org/>) to find contact information for the care coordinator in your region and provide that information, or the website, to the patient so they can reach out at their own convenience.

For more information on the Connect to Cure Program please visit the website (<https://www.connecttocure.org/>). If you have any questions regarding hepatitis C investigations, please contact Jena Rasor (Jrasor@health.in.gov).

Educational Resources

Hepatitis C ECHO Trainings

Extension for Community Healthcare Outcome, more commonly referred to as ECHO is a collaborative program that uses technology to provide case-based learning to improve access to high-quality treatment for hepatitis B and C. On the Web-based platform participants will share knowledge with others, connect to specialists, participate in discussions and medical experts will provide recommendations to enhance mastery of topics.

The Hepatitis C ECHO meets online on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month from 12:30-2 p.m.

To register for the Hepatitis C Echo please click on the link below:

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

IN-HAMP

Indiana Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program (IN-HAMP) is a medical education training program for clinicians that are new to treating hepatitis C. The IN-HAMP program includes two 1.5-hour long hepatitis C ECHO sessions, Cycle 1 training and preparation for clinicians to treat individuals living with hepatitis C, and Cycle 2 which covers advanced topics in hepatitis C care.

If you are a clinician and interested in learning more about IN-HAMP you can email inhamp@iu.edu or enroll in Cycle 1 and Cycle 2 and both hepatitis C ECHO sessions by clicking the following link:

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

Questions or suggestions:

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To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers

